

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) A method for making a plastic film, the method comprising

mixing into plastic material which causes bubbles in a plastic film to be stretched

extruding the plastic into a film

orientating the plastic film by stretching after extrusion and

after orientation subjecting the plastic film to pressurized gas so that the gas diffuses in the cavitation bubbles, and thus forming in the plastic film bubbles containing gas.

25. (previously presented) A method according to claim 24, comprising arranging gas to act on the plastic film after a first orientation stage and thereafter subjecting the plastic film to a second orientation which is substantially perpendicular to the first orientation so that the bubbles

containing gas expand due to the influence of the second orientation and the gas.

26. (previously presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein at the first orientation stage the plastic film is orientated in the machine direction and at the second orientation stage the plastic film is orientated in the direction substantially transverse to the machine direction.

27. (previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein the pressure of the gas acting on the plastic film is over 3 bars.

28. (previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein before extrusion an oily substance or a substance having a melting point lower than the orientation temperature of the plastic is mixed into the plastic.

29. (previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein the plastic film is heated at the same time as gas is fed.

30. (previously presented) A method according to claim 29, wherein the pressure of the pressurized gas is

increased so that the temperature of the gas rises, and thus the pressurized gas is used for heating the plastic film.

31. (previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein pressurized gas is fed by a discharge chamber, a sealing chamber is provided at least at one end of the discharge chamber, and gas flowing into the sealing chamber is sucked and supplied back to the discharge chamber.

32. (previously presented) An apparatus for making a plastic film, the apparatus comprising an extruder, at least one orientation device for orientating an extruded film by stretching and gas supply means arranged after the at least one orientation device for feeding pressurized gas into the plastic film after orientation by stretching so that the fed gas diffuses in the cavitation bubbles that are formed in the plastic film during stretching, and thus bubbles containing gas being formed in the plastic film.

33. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the gas supply means are arranged after a first orientation device and the apparatus further comprises a second orientation device after the first orientation device in the direction of the plastic film, the second orientation device

being arranged to orientate the plastic film in the direction substantially transverse to the orientation direction of the first orientation device so that the bubbles containing gas expand due to the influence of the second orientation device and the gas.

34. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the first orientation device is arranged to orientate the plastic film in the machine direction and the second orientation device is arranged to orientate the plastic film in the direction substantially transverse to the machine direction.

35. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the gas supply means comprise a discharge chamber, which is provided with means for heating the plastic film.

36. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the apparatus comprises means for increasing the pressure of pressurized gas so that the gas temperature rises so high that the gas heats the plastic film.

37. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the gas supply means comprise a discharge chamber, and a sealing chamber is provided at least at one end of the discharge chamber.

38. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the gas supply means comprise a pump which is arranged to suck gas from the sealing chamber and means for supplying the gas sucked from the sealing chamber into the discharge chamber.

39. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the pump is arranged to suck additional air through the sealing chamber.

40-46. (canceled)